



Foreign Agricultural Service

**GAIN Report**

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## **Colombia**

### **Market Development Reports**

# **Colombia: Largest U.S. Agricultural Market in Central and South America 2002**

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#### **Report Highlights:**

**Amid economic turmoil in much of South America, Colombia's agricultural, forestry and fisheries imports from the United States were up 8.4 percent to \$456 million, with imports of consumer-oriented up 7.4 percent to \$65 million. Colombia remains our largest agricultural market in Central and South America.**

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Includes PSD changes: No  
Includes Trade Matrix: No  
Unscheduled Report  
Bogota [CO1], CO

Colombia is the largest market for U.S. agricultural exports in Central and South America. Despite violence and insecurity caused by the domestic insurgency and amid economic turmoil in many South American countries, U.S. agricultural, food, and forestry exports to Colombia were up 8.4 percent in calendar 2001 to \$456 million. Always a strong bulk market for U.S. feedgrains, oilseeds, wheat and cotton, Colombia also imported over \$65 million in consumer-oriented food products in 2001, up 7.4 percent from 2000.

The Colombian economy grew 1.7 percent in 2001, with inflation at 8 percent. The official forecasts for 2002 are for 2.5 percent growth and 6.5 percent inflation, however, the growth estimate is probably optimistic. The Colombian peso has been floating freely since mid-1999 and is stable. Unemployment is officially forecast at 17 percent in 2002, but is actually much higher. With the moderate economic outlook and a strong poultry sector, growth in bulk imports of U.S. agricultural products was strong in 2001 and should continue in 2002. Also, economic growth, continued modernization in Colombia's competitive supermarket sector, and a sophisticated consumer base, all bode well for further growth in imports of consumer-oriented food products.

### U.S. Agricultural Exports to Central and South America Calendar Year 2001 US\$ Thousands

Country	Bulk	Intermediate	Consumer-Oriented	TOTAL*
Colombia	286	101	65	456
Venezuela	194	116	100	427
Guatemala	94	100	102	302
Brazil	15	137	70	231
Peru	135	55	22	215
Costa Rica	119	25	55	207
Argentina	2	69	45	121
Chile	7	51	42	114

\* Totals do not add because Forestry and Seafood export data are not shown.

Source: U.S. Bureau of Census Trade Data